



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHRISTOPHER M. PORTELE

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher M. Portele is the Commandant, United States Air Force Special Operations School (USAFSOS). The mission of USAFSOS is to deliver responsive and relevant education -- to enable Air Commando excellence in complex and ambiguous operational environments worldwide. The primary educational focus of USAFSOS is on providing Special Operations Forces (SOF) initial indoctrination, political/military/cultural studies supporting SOF engagement in a particular country or theater of interest, and advancement of life-long professional development for Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) military and civilian personnel. USAFSOS also provides specialized instruction on Irregular Warfare principles; building partner nation aviation capacity; aviation foreign internal defense; dynamics of international terrorism; and command, control and integration of AFSOC assets. USAFSOS also supports focused education requests by other DoD and governmental organizations and participates in educational outreach initiatives to select foreign military partners.



Lieutenant Colonel Portele was commissioned through Reserve the Officer Training Corps, graduating from Texas A&M University. He earned his pilot rating through Undergraduate Pilot Training at Corpus Christi NAS, Texas. He has flown the MC-130W and AC-130W as an instructor and evaluator pilot with over 2,900 flight hours. He has served in Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, RESOLUTE SUPPORT and FREEDOM SENTINEL. He has joint staff officer experience managing the special operation's piece of the Department of Defense's Analytic Agenda supporting resourcing and force structure decisions. Prior to his current assignment, he was the Chief of 27th Special Operations Wing Safety, Cannon Air Force Base, N.M. Lieutenant Colonel Portele is married to the former Lisa Kardohely of Selinsgrove, PA. The Porteles have one child, Joseph (1).

EDUCATION

1998 Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
2004 Air Force Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
2006 Advanced Instrument School, Randolph AFB, Texas
2006 Masters of Business Administration, Trident University, Cypress, Calif.
2011 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
2011 Masters of Military Operational Arts and Sciences, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
2012 Joint and Combined Warfighting School, Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.
2013 Air War College, Correspondence

ASSIGNMENTS

1. 1998 - 1999: Special Assistant to the Commander, Professor of Aerospace Studies, College Station, TX.
2. 1999 - 2000: Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Corpus Christi NAS, TX.
3. 2000 - 2003: Aircraft Commander, 71st Rescue Squadron, Moody AFB, GA.
4. 2003 - 2005: Instructor Pilot and Chief Group Plans, 347 Operational Support Squadron, Moody AFB, GA.
5. 2005 - 2006: Evaluator Pilot and Flight Commander, 71st Rescue Squadron, Moody AFB, Ga.
6. 2006 - 2008: Chief Standards and Evaluation, 73rd Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
7. 2009 - 2010: Assistant Director of Operations, 73rd Special Operations Squadron, Cannon AFB, N.M.
8. 2010 - 2011: Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
9. 2011 - 2013: Analyst J8, United States Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, Fla.
10. 2013 - 2015: Chief, 27th Special Operations Wing Safety, Cannon AFB, N.M.
11. 2015 - 2016: Vice Commandant, United States Special Operations School, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
12. 2016 – Present: Commandant, United States Special Operations School, Hurlburt Field, Fla

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: More than 2,900 total flying hours, 635 instructor hours and 170 evaluator hours

Aircraft Flown (Primary Time): C-130E, HC-130P, MC-130P, MC-130W, AC-130W

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster

Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster

Meritorious Unit Award

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Oak Leaf Clusters

National Defense Service Medal

Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant - Aug 1998

First Lieutenant - Aug 2000

Captain - Aug 2002

Major - June 2008

Lieutenant Colonel - Oct 2013